

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 041343

43

ORIGIN ARA-20

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P 011854Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATION AT INAUGURATION

1. PUERTO RICAN DEPT OF STATE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EMBASSY CARACAS MAY WISH TO INCLUDE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION IN US DELEGATION TO PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. REASON FOR CONCERN IS DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PUERTO RICO, AND PRESUMABLY PUERTO RICAN POSTURE AMONG CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS.

2. PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET FOR SEPARATE US AND PUERTO RICAN DELEGATIONS AT BAHAMAS AND GRENADA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS. THIS IS STRICTLY A PROTOCOLARY MATTER AS PUERTO RICANS UNDERSTAND FULLY THAT THEY ARE TO LOOK TO US DELEGATION AND US EMBASSY FOR ANY NECESSARY POLITICAL GUIDANCE, AND TO CEMENT THIS TIE PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE PONS HAS ASKED TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN CARACAS.

3. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE SATISFACTORY FOR EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE. CASEY

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